

PolS 360

Dr. Belt

Extra Credit Option

Due: 7 May 2008 (Wednesday)

Write a two page review of a movie (not a documentary or TV show) that deals with the a government organization or agency in a public administration context. Make sure to address the following:

- Give a *brief* overview of the plot (1-3 sentences).
- What is the movie really “saying” about the organization with respect to:
 - The goals of the organization? Is the organization portrayed as “good” or “bad” or both?
 - The services are provided in order to meet their goals?
 - How the bureaucracy is organized?
 - The characteristics of the organization’s personnel?
 - The organization’s budget?
 - The influence of politics?
 - Intergovernmental relations?
 - Accountability?
 - Leadership and oversight by superiors?
 - How well does the organization provide services in terms of efficiency?
 - Note: not all of the above questions will apply to every movie.
- Examine relationships of the main characters to the organization.
- Do the characters represent or symbolize anyone, such as larger social groups or officials?
- What are the major conflicts involving the organization? How are they resolved?
- How *effectively* and *accurately* does the movie portray the reality of public administration?

Don’t worry about “reading too much” into what you are seeing. Often, the messages in movies may not be put there on purpose, but they do reflect meanings that are subconsciously inferred by writers and directors who can not help but to comment on the world we live in through their work. Your review must be typed, double spaced, one-inch margins, and in 12 point Times Roman font. Make sure that your essay has an introduction, body and conclusion. Plagiarized work will result in an “F” for your final course grade.

Excellent to good papers (A-B) will increase your lowest examination score by 2/3 of a letter grade.
Average to poor papers (C-D) will increase your lowest examination score by 1/3 of a letter grade.
Failing papers (F) will result in no bonus.

Some examples of movies you might choose appear on the other side of this handout.

War/Military Films

All Quiet on the Western Front
Battle of the Bulge
Breaker Morant
The Bridge
Bridge Over the River Kwai
A Bridge Too Far
Cadence
Casualties of War
Command Decision
Courage Under Fire
Crimson Tide
Das Boot
Dr. Strangelove
Enemies at the Gate
A Few Good Men
First Blood
From Here to Eternity
Gallipoli
Gettysburg
Glory
The Grand Illusion
Hitler
Hunt for Red October
Mutiny on the Bounty
Napoleon
An Officer and a Gentleman
Patriot Games
Patton
Platoon
Run Silient, Run Deep
Saving Private Ryan
Schindler's List
Team America: World Police
Twelve O'Clock High
Under Fire

Political Films

Abe Lincoln in Illinois
Advise and Consent
All the King's Men
The Best Man
City Hall
The Contender
JFK
The Missiles of October
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
Nixon
Primary Colors
The Seduction of Joe Tynan
Sunrise at Campobello
Thirteen Days
The War Room

Spy Stories

Casablanca
Clear and Present Danger
The Falcon and the Snowman
The Man Who Knew Too Much
Notorious
The Spy that Came in from the Cold
The 39 Steps
The Ugly American

Docu-dramas

Fire and Rain
Gandhi
Hiroshima
Judgment at Nuremburg
Laurence of Arabia
The Sorrow and the Pity
Stonewall
Triumph of the Will

Criminal Justice Films

American History X And Justice for All
The Border
Brubaker
The Caine Mutiny
A Civil Action
Die Hard
Enemy of the State
A Few Good Men
The Green Mile
Hoffa
In the Heat of the Night
In the Name of the Father
The Onion Field
Shawshank Redemption
Silence of the Lambs
Twelve Angry Men
The Verdict
SWAT

Science Fiction

The Andromeda Syndrome
Blade Runner
Brazil
Contact
The Disk
Dune
Excalibur
Fahrenheit 451
1984
Planet of the Apes
Space Odyssey 2001
Star Wars
X-Files

You are not limited to the above list – use your judgment to decide on a good one. If the movie you choose turns out not to be adequate for answering the above questions, try another movie. Have fun!